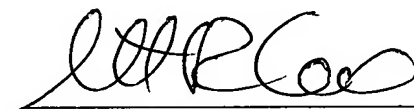


CONCLUSION

The applicants assert that important process steps contained in all claims of the application are not disclosed by the combination of Cullen et al., Davy, the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, or any of the three cited patents which disclosed different methods for splicing. Further, the products made by these processes are not the same as those made by the processes of the claims of the application. Accordingly, the applicants request that a Notice of Allowance be issued for all claims, as written. If there is any issues or questions, please contact applicants' counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 21, 2004 Dolly Hart

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